

REMARKS

Applicant has submitted this Response in reply to the Office Action dated July 5, 2007 and in accordance with the telephone interview conducted on September 13, 2007. Claims 1 to 5, 14, 15 and 17 stand withdrawn. Applicant has amended the specification and claims 6, 12 and 16. Claims 18-22 have been added. Applicant has not introduced any new matter by such amendments. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge deposit account 02-1818 for any amounts due.

The Office Action rejected claims 6, 12 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention for the reasons noted on page 2 of the Office Action. During the telephone interview conducted on September 13, 2007, the Examiner and Applicant's representatives discussed the Examiner's proposed clarifying language. Applicant notes that the amendments made to each of these claims incorporate the suggested language identified in the Office Action and discussed with the Examiner.

The Office Action rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,401,299 to Kroeger et al. ("Kroeger"). During the September 13, 2007 telephone interview, the Examiner and Applicant's representatives discussed the rejection of claim 16 in view of claim 6, which includes allowable elements. Applicant has incorporated many of the elements of allowable claim 6 into claim 16 and respectfully submits that claim 16 is now patentable over Kroeger and in condition for allowance. For example, Kroeger does not disclose at least "... a micro-controller unit to produce a low voltage pulse signal; a DC power supply to receive an incoming AC voltage and produce a first DC voltage therefrom, the first DC voltage indicative of the incoming AC voltage; [and] a step down circuit to step down the first DC voltage to a second DC voltage that can be monitored by the micro-controller unit without damaging the micro-controller unit, the second DC voltage also indicative of the incoming AC voltage ..."

New independent claim 18 recites, among other elements: "... a controller operatively coupled to the voltage generator, the controller configured to: (a) monitor the reduced voltage; (b) produce a voltage pulse signal based on the monitored reduced voltage, the voltage pulse signal having at least one characteristic; and (c) adjust the at least one characteristic of the voltage pulse signal to adjust the potential difference of the voltage generator. Kroeger does not disclose such elements in conjunction with the other elements of such claim.

At least for the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the claims are in condition for allowance. An earnest endeavor has been made to place this application in condition for allowance, and such allowance is courteously solicited. If the Examiner has any questions related to this Response, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD-LLP

BY  _____

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